IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

EINARSSON et al.   Atty. Ref.: 2466-87

Serial No.   Group:

Filed: January 24, 2001   Examiner:

For: A METHOD AND AN APPARATUS FOR VIDEO MIXING OF BIT STREAMS

January 24, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-13 and substitute therefore new claims 14-26 as follows:

14.   A method of, in the compressed domain, forming a composed video image having a first format comprising a number of different original video images having a second format, when the original images are coded using an algorithm forming a video stream comprising a number of independent segments, characterized by the steps of:

composing the original video images having a second format into one image having the first format, and

inserting a segment header at the intersection between a first row of original images in the composed image and a second row of original images in the composed image.

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15.   A method according to claim 14, characterized by the additional step of:

performing a stepwise change of quantizer value at the cross-section between adjacent original images in the composed image.

16.   A method according to claim 14, characterized by the additional step of:

introducing a new segment header at the beginning of every line of the image.

17.   A method according to claim 14, characterized by the additional step of:

recalculating any motion vectors being different between the first and second format.

18.   A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the transmission standard used is H.263 or MPEG-4.

19.   A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the independent segments are group of blocks (GOB).

20.   A method according to claim 14, when the coding method used is H.263 and supporting Annex T, characterized by the additional step of:

setting a new value in the macroblock at the cross-section between adjacent original images in the composed image.

21.   A method according to claim 14, when flexible type segments are available, characterized in that segments corresponding to rows in the sub images are used.

22.   A computer program, which when run on a computer, performs the method according to claim 14.

23.   An apparatus comprising means for, in the compressed domain, forming a composed video image having a first format comprising a number of different original video images having a second format, when the original images are coded using an algorithm forming a video stream comprising a number of independent segments, characterized by:

means for composing the original video images having a second format into one image having the first format, and

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means for inserting a segment header at the intersection between a first row of original images in the composed image and a second row of original images in the composed image.

24. An apparatus according to claim 23, characterized by:

means for performing a stepwise change of quantizer value at the cross-section between adjacent original images in the composed image.

25. An apparatus according to claim 23, characterized by:

means for introducing a new segment header at the beginning of every line of the image.

26. An apparatus according to claim 23, characterized by:

means for recalculating any motion vectors being different between the first and second format.
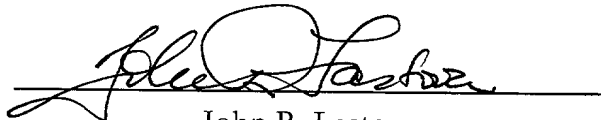
REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-13 in favor of new claims 14-26.

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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